Serial No. 10/790,056

ASA-1168

Amendment

Responsive to Office Action dated December 24, 2008

REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 1, and 12-13 are pending. Claims 2-11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 2-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hotta, U.S. Patent No. 6,836,481. Claims 2-11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 12 and 13 are allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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